

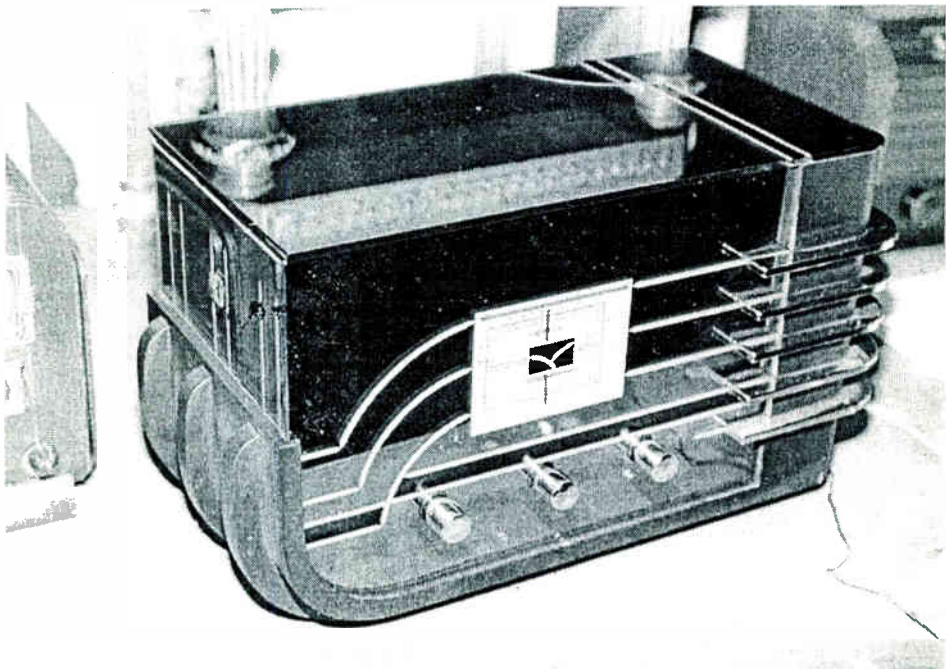
**BULLETIN**

*Indiana Historical Radio Society*  
PRESERVATION FOR POSTERITY

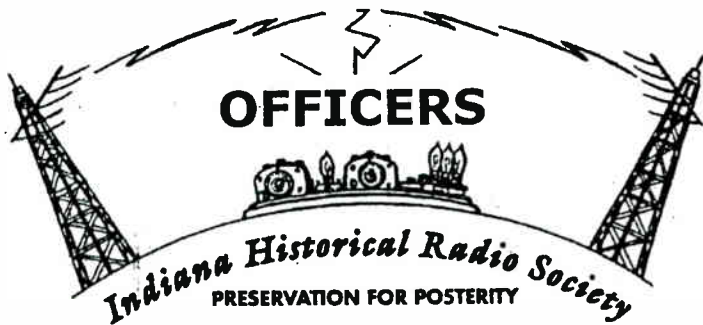
**Vol.28**

**Spring 1999**

**No. 1**



**The above represents just one of the many Radio Contest entries of the Winter meet, 2/13/99! More inside.**



**Alex Whitaker, President**  
 426 Whiteland Road, Apartment A  
 Whiteland, Indiana 46184  
 (317)-535-4174

**Activities, Business and  
 Publicity**

**George Freeman, Vice President**  
 102 East Main Street  
 Madison, Indiana 47250  
 (812)-256-6878

**Sites and Dates of  
 Meets**

**Fred Prohl, Secretary**  
 3129 Lanam Ridge Road  
 Nashville, Indiana 47448  
 (812)-988-1761

**Applications and  
 Correspondence**

**Dr. Michael A. Clark, Treasurer**  
 6484 East 350, North  
 Franklin, Indiana 46131  
 (317)-738-4649

**Dues, Financial &  
 Address Changes**

**Robert M. (Bob) O'Friel, Editor**  
 7631 Cape Cod Circle  
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46250-1844  
 (317)-849-4028  
 e-mail bobof@iquest.net

**News, Articles &  
 Radio-Ads**

**Dr. Ed Taylor, Historian**  
 245 North Oakland Avenue  
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46201-3360  
 (317)-638-1641

**Donations & Scrapbook  
 Material**

**Fred M. Schultz,**  
 1246 Lincolnway South  
 Ligonier, Indiana 46767  
 (219)-894-3092

**IHRS Museum Curator**

**Bulletin Deadlines. News, Articles & RadioAds, 2/15, 5/15, 8/15, 11/15**

The INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY is a non-profit organization founded in 1971. Annual membership dues are \$10.00, which includes the quarterly IHRS BULLETIN. RadioAds are free to all members. Please include a S.A.S.E. when requesting information.

## COMING EVENTS

Thurs. 6/3, Fri. 6/4, and Sat. 6/5/99. **IHRS/AWA 28th Annual Regional Spring Fling Radio Festival**. Same great location as last year! SIGNATURE INN EAST, East Washington St. @ I-465, (7610 Old Trails Rd.), Indianapolis, IN. (317) 353-6966.

***Important!!!*** Please read the “DETOUR” notice that follows the Coming Events section. It can help you if you are coming in from out of town or, if you are not familiar with the east side. See the announcement and schedule sheet you just received as to all details. Remember to mention the IHRS event when you are booking your room at the motel so that you will receive the special rate of \$ 59 per night. This is also important so that the motel is aware of their return on investment by letting us use the special parking lot for the Sales Meet at no charge. Also note that the lot has been cleared for this event so that there is more vendor space. All spaces are numbered and assigned, **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE IN EARLY**. The registration and beginning of the event takes place at noon on Thursday, June 3rd.. If you have pre-registered and have your number, you will be admitted at that time. Otherwise, your space number will be assigned as you register at that time. If you do move in before you have registered and received your number, you may be asked to tear down and move. The Thursday schedule calls for opening at 12:00 noon followed by the Swap Meet to 6 PM. At 8 PM, movies and videos will be shown in the upstairs meeting room at the Signature Inn. Registration opens Friday, 6/4, at 7:30AM with Swap Meet all day to 6PM. There is an old equipment contest and the doors open for that at 9AM. The contest room closes at 1:30PM to allow the judges to review the entries. There is a co-ed luncheon at 12.00 noon at the Laughner’s Cafeteria with a special guest speaker. Note that Registration is closed from 12 noon until 1:30 PM. There is a seminar at 4PM and then the “Awards Banquet” starts at 5:45PM at the Laughner’s Cafeteria. The Awards are  
(SEE NEXT PAGE)

## IHRS/AWA SPRING FLING-----Continued

presented at 6:45PM followed by musical entertainment provided by The Charleston Chasers at 7PM. See the mailer for details on all these events.

Saturday, June 5th,

Registration 7:30AM Swap Meet, all day

8:45AM Bring in items for both auctions.

Items for the regular auction will be signed in at this time.

Those bringing in units for the Donation auction should make sure it is not junk. Do not abandon chassis or cabinets on the grounds.

10:30AM Donation Auction

11:15AM Auction (please note there is a 10% sellers fee involved).

Registration--\$10.00/family. Vendor Spaces/tables: Tent tables--\$15.00 each with 2 chairs. Outdoor spaces--\$10.00 ea.

CONTACTS: Bob O'Friel (317) 849-4028 or Mike Clark after 6PM Monday through Friday, (317) 738-4649.

You may send your checks in for pre-registration to:

Dr. Michael Clark, 6484 East 350 North, Franklin, IN 46131

Cincinnati Antique Radio Society presents the Seventh Annual

### Radio Rama 99

Cincinnati, Ohio, Friday June 25th and Saturday 26th. There will be a Hospitality Session on Thursday, 6/24 for the early arrivals.

WHERE: Signature Inn, Turfway Road, Florence, KY 41042  
(606) 371-0081. (Continental Breakfast for registered guests)

You must mention antique radio event to get special room rate of \$55. Exit 182 off I-75 10 minutes south of Cincinnati, 2nd exit south of I-275. Turn right four times to Hotel. Note that special block of rooms is reserved until June 11 only.

Friday....Swap meet starts at dawn. 10:00AM..Open Exhibition  
2PM Caravan tour.."Gray History of Wireless Museum".

7:00PM Seminar..."Genuine Plastic Radios of the Mid-Century"  
presented by Author, Ken Jupp

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

Cincinnati *RadioRama*, continued

Saturday, 6/26, Swap Meet, Dawn until noon. Exhibition continues 10AM-noon.

General Admission, \$5.00 per family (all one address), Vendor Fee...\$15.00 per space which includes 2 general admissions.

**CONTACT:** Bob Sands, (513) 858-1755

**IHRS Northern Indiana Summer Meet**, Saturday, August 28, '99

Note that this date differs from the one announced in the last "Bulletin" so make the change on your calendar and BE THERE. Regular location, High Dive Pavilion, 500 East Beardsley Avenue Elkhart, Indiana. Registration:8:30AM, \$5.00 per member family. Contests and all other details to be in next issue. Call for information. Terry Garl, (219) 679-4280, (e-mail IHRSELK98@AOL.COM), or Ross Smith, 1133 Strong Ave., Elkhart, IN 46514, phone (219) 295-7770

**IHRS WINTER MEET**. Saturday, February 12,2000

Holiday Inn Southeast, 5120 Victory Lane at the Emerson Road exit off of I-465. exit 52. 7:30AM till ??????. Details forthcoming. Contact:Mike Clark, (317)738-4649 or Alex Whitaker, (317) 535-4174

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*Observations!*

***Did anyone notice the similarity between the cover ARC, (Antique Radio Classified) used for their February 1999 issue and the associated story "Restoring A Zenith 5S327 by Bob Snively and our Spring 1998 "Bulletin" with the same article on page 12 of our issue? Our congratulations to Bob who made it to the front page of a National publication! Somewhere in our conversations, Bob claimed to only be a beginner. The professionalism of his work sets a standard that many could be proud to match.***

# DETOUR

Special notice!! Read the following very carefully if you are coming to the June meet!!

## DOT Does It Again!!!!

For years, the central Indiana DOT groups have managed to complicate planned events. One year, they managed to tear up and close West 16th Street right in front of The Speedway Race Track at the time that the biggest racing spectacle was to take place. We overcame that challenge. Now, construction and improvements are taking place on I-465. As a result, the southbound exit to East Washington Street has been closed which will complicate getting to the Signature Inn. Fortunately, there are easy solutions.

The key to remember is, watch for the Shadeland Ave. exit if you are on westbound I-70 from Ohio, eastern Indiana etc., you will pass under I-465, (ignore the I-465 north and I-465 south lanes), and the Shadeland exit, (#89), is to your right on the west side of the bridge.

When coming off of southbound I-465, take the I-70 West exit. You will not see a "Shadeland Ave. exit" notice on I 465. It is only posted on the exit ramp itself after you start the turn off of I-465 to Westbound I-70.

At that point, exit onto the Shadeland ramp and stay to the right. When you reach the bottom of that ramp, turn right and proceed south on Shadeland until you reach the "Washington St. exits", approximately 2 miles south of the I-70 exit you came from.

Use the second Washington Street exit which is designated East Washington St. . Proceed east about another mile staying in the right lane and you will see a K-Mart store on your right and then a Fazoli's fast food restaurant followed by a Hardee's which is right at the traffic light at Old Trails Road. Turn right and head on into the Signature Inn. The next page contains a map to assist you. We'll be waiting there to give you a good show.

## COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

I am sure that you all are greeting the arrival of spring with good feelings and that you have plenty of plans for this year including the great 28th annual IHRS/AWA Regional Spring Fling that is coming up Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 3rd, 4th and 5th. More information may be found in the "Coming Events" listing in this issue. Unfortunately, there was a great deal of information that was not included in the last issue that had been prepared but which got lost in computer glitches etc.. I hope to close all of those issues now. To begin with, there was a treasurer's report and information about renewing your membership using the envelope that was addressed to Dr. Mike Clark that was included with said "Bulletin". Many of you recognized that envelope for its intended purpose and began sending in the renewals but we are far short of our goals. If you can find the pre-addressed envelope, go ahead and send your check and renewal information to Mike so that you will be able to continue receiving this publication which contains the information about the coming events as well as coverage of previous meetings.

At this point, I must bring you some sad news. It was announced that Terri and Alex Whitaker were expecting twins. One of the twins was still-born prematurely and Terri has been in the hospital since that happened and was to have continued to stay there for some considerable time so that they could provide the optimum conditions to maintain the health and welfare of both mother and the daughter. I know that many will want to send cards. As this message was going to press, I received the good news that Terri had given birth to the baby daughter on Sunday evening, 4/25 and was to return home. The baby remains in the Neo-Natal care unit at St. Francis South hospital.

Our congratulations to Terri and Alex along with our prayers and best wishes.

The February meet was well attended although the planned lunch meeting was cancelled due to lack of enough members to make a quorum. The next official meeting will take place at our Northern Indiana meet that takes place in Elkhart on Saturday, August 28th. Please note that this also represents a correction as the last "Bulletin" listed the date as August 21st. You will find photos taken at the February meeting else-

where in this edition. They were taken by Pete Yanczer and supplied to us through Ed Taylor who also should be credited for judging the contest entries. Our thanks to the both of them and to those who brought in the contest entries. Some of the Fall Meet pictures came to us from Dr. Clark and more were supplied by Mike Feldt who is presently working on an article about another rare Indiana made radio which we hope to have in time for the next edition of the "Bulletin".

Due to the complications of his wife's hospitalization, Alex Whitaker will not be presenting the seminar mentioned in the last "Bulletin" and "Antique Radio Classified. Ross Smith will be on hand to give us an excellent service clinic in its place. Those who have ever heard Ross in this role will recognize that he is very qualified.

For the same reason stated above, Alex will not be able to give us his "Message From The President" in time for this issue and I am using these comments to deliver some of his thoughts at this time.

Other than that, I have been advised that the 50 rooms reserved at the Signature Inn are starting to be filled so, if you are from out of town, it would be wise to phone for your reservation now. Herman Gross, who is our Publicity Representative, has already sent out nearly 70 Press Releases to the various media sources and has been doing an outstanding job accordingly and so we expect a good turnout. In addition, as stated in the last "Bulletin", President Alex Whitaker and I will be guests on Paul Irwin's popular "INDIANA TODAY" program on Tuesday, June 1st on WICR-FM, 88.7 on the dial, somewhere between 9:05 and 10 AM, to speak about the big event that takes place the weekend of June 3rd through June 5th. We are hoping for a good show and a happy time for all so, get your trades and sales items ready. A word of warning, The "Spring Fling" meet officially opens on Thursday, June 3rd. at noon with the registration. Do not attempt to move in and set up before that unless you have pre-registered and have an assigned space number. If you do so, you may have to tear down and move. In the meantime, I'll see you, wherever Radios live!

Bob O'Friel, editor.



Please note that the report that follows is the one which escaped appearing in the last "Bulletin". Please adjust your thinking to the timing as noted by the date.\*

## IHRS TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Michael Clark, \*12/10/98

As of 12/10/98, the IHRS has a bank balance of \$5,984.67. There are some bills still outstanding for the costs involved on the last 2 "Bulletins" and other matters which will be resolved when the expense reports and invoices are received that will lower that amount accordingly. We send a total of 332 "Bulletins" in each mailing; 12 of these are complementary or exchange copies with other clubs and the library so we currently have 320 members.

Now is the time to send in your 1999 dues of \$10.00. As of the last count, (at 12/10/98) only 10 members have for 1999 and the rules specify that dues should be paid by the end of January. If you do not receive the first 1999 "Bulletin", then we have not received your 1999 dues payment. We are no longer sending out delinquent dues notices. Your current dues status is printed on the Bulletin mailing label after your last name. For example, "(12/98" means that you were paid through the end of '98 and you should send in your 1999 dues today. Due to this not appearing in the appropriate Bulletin, some adjustments have been made.)

The envelope included in the last edition has the correct mailing address. Do not use the address from last year. The Post Office changed my mailing address and they will no longer deliver mail sent to the old address. If you have any questions about your dues status, please send me a Post Card. The new address is:

Dr. Mike Clark  
IHRS Treasurer  
6484 East 350 North  
Franklin, IN 46131

Please make out your \$10.00 dues check to "IHRS". Thanks for your cooperation and support.

Dr. Michael Clark

# *The Indiana Historical Radio Society Museum Report*

Marcella Schultz

As of May 1st., the museum returned to their regular summer hours except that an extra day has been added this year. The Museum hours are: 10AM to 3PM, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and, Saturday with the possibility of adding Friday at a later date.

The new signs we installed have increased our attendance with over 600 visitors in October which is the last month with summer hours. We are in the process of installing a sign on US 6 which will complete our sign project.

Additions to the Museum displays include 3 DeForest Audions, two of them still in their original boxes dating back to 1908 and 1909, a beautiful Pathe speaker, and a very unusual indoor antenna from the early 1920s. This one happens to be about 4 foot tall and unfolds like an umbrella. Ted Rogers, one of our IHRS members from Syracuse Indiana, generously donated an AM 100 Comtronics transmitter that now permits us to transmit quality old time programs within the Museum. Elma, (Pem), Farnsworth, widow of Philo T. Farnsworth resides in Fort Wayne and has agreed to put some items on display at the IHRS museum. Pem has been very active in promoting the many important contributions her late husband made to the development of Television. May is the month for school tours. Most of the schools that schedule museum tours return year after year. This includes schools from Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. Then in June through October, we see most of our adult tour buses.

Thanks to Fred Prohl, the Museum now has a new Web page. Be sure to look it up on the internet.

Anyone requesting information regarding the Museum can contact me at (219)-894-3779 or via e-mail [olradio@ligtel.com](mailto:olradio@ligtel.com)

Marcella Schultz

(Editors comment: both Marcella and her father, Fred Schultz have invested a labor of love in setting up and maintaining the museum since the days that we moved out of the old Auburn Indiana location. If you have not visited this museum, you owe it to yourself as a collector to go there and see the wonders they have assembled. Fred has set up some very active displays and attractions for the benefit of telling people about this great part of the history of communications . If you are so inclined, volunteer to help Fred and Marcella at some point along the way.) (Fred Prohl has advised that the address for the IHRS WEB site is: <http://home.att.net/~indianahistoricalradio> .)

# **The Radio Distributing Company**

**by J.A. McCombs**

**(Editor's note, since I spent over 43 years in distribution, this story appealed to me and since most of the parts, tubes, and test equipment that many of you acquired came through distribution channels, I thought this article might be of interest to you.)**

**I have been asked to write the history of the Radio Distributing Company of South Bend, Indiana. This will not be an easy thing as the owner, Bruce (Irvin Henry) Bouchard, has passed away and I will have to rely on my memory for some of the details. Bruce Bouchard was born in Milwaukee Wisconsin on Sept. 26, 1906 and died in South Bend, on Feb. 18, 1976. I know very little about Bruce's early life. Apparently, there was a separation early in his parent's marriage and Mrs. Bouchard raised her son Bruce and her daughter, Violet.**

**Bruce must have developed an interest in electronics early in his life. He became a Radio Amateur. He then tried for a commercial ticket and got it. At this time, they were living in Butte, Montana.**

**Getting the Commercial ticket was not too difficult for him so he applied for a Commercial station. He received it but never used it. It was probably the first station in Montana. He told me much more about it but it was many years ago and he rarely talked about anything but business.**

**It was not much later that the Senatorial appointments came along for admission to the US Naval academy. Bruce and a friend applied. There was also another applicant bringing the total to 3. The exams were held and Bruce must have been third. For some reason or other, the first were unable to accept the nomination so it fell to Bruce by default. He went to Annapolis for four years minus two weeks. He was within two weeks of graduating when, for reasons unknown to me, he was washed out. Bruce never explained to me the reason. This happened in 1929 and I suppose not many recruits were needed. The Wall Street collapse killed a lot of hopes and, some people. He never told me what courses he took but it must have been electronics.**

After Bruce left the Naval Academy the information becomes very scant but, in Detroit, he became associated with the WKC Radio Company and other concerns.

This account really started after he arrived in South Bend where he set up shop in the Pythian Building. He was here for a time doing radio service. It was rumored that, at one time, he worked for the Colin B. Kennedy Radio Company. He developed a noise eliminating antenna system for Broadcast sets. All towns and cities in those days had severe noise problems caused by various things such as old wiring, DC motors and Generators, Battery charging systems, street cars, and arc lights. This Elimostat System, as it was called, was a shielded transmission line with an autotransformer termination that cancelled all noise from the antenna down. This brought the clean signals up in the air down to the set and resulted in great reception. I installed a number of these and I cannot recall a failure.

I am not sure how long Bruce was in the Pythian Bldg. but, after a time, he moved to the third floor of the Birdsall Mfg. Co. who made clover hullers and wagons. This must have been a rough location. To have carried consoles up three stories must have required some good legs and muscles. It was approximately 1934 when Bruce moved his business to 736 S. Michigan St.. He was still at this location when he went into parts merchandising. This came about as a result of a company known as the General Distributing Co. that went out of business for reasons I do not know. The way I got the information was unusual. In the spring of 1935, I went to work at the Davidson Sales Company, 432 S. Michigan St.. There I met a very pleasant salesman, Earl Nave who traveled as a road representative for this company. He sold Crosley radios and refrigerators for them. His territory was St. Joseph and Marshall Counties. Earl told me that his company, The General Distributing Co., removed their stock of parts to Bruce's place. Earl put a desk in the corner and proceeded to sell parts. As these parts were sold, Bruce would pay for them. This is how Bruce got into the wholesale

business and I suspect the name Radio Distributing Co. was born at this time.

It was in this period that Bruce hired, Jim Wetmore, Ross Conkle, and Bill Acker.

I started buying parts from R. D. Co. in the spring of 1935. The men mentioned were working here. It was a great place to go. In addition to being able to get parts, you could get technical help. They kept a complete file of Riders Manuals. This was great!

In time, R. D. Co. became the second Motorola Distributor in the United States.

There were, at this time, a number of Radio Amateurs about and R. D. Co. is where they came. I had become an Amateur in 1935 and was to meet a number of them here.

The next employee was Florence Muckenthaler. Florence was with the company for a long time. We had met at Birdsell where she was the secretary to Mr. Birdsell. When Birdsell went out of business she came to Radio Distributing.

I think the next employee was Bill Davidson and that was around 1937. He was called Dave and he was the first Amateur to be hired. His call was W9SIQ.

In the time between 1936 and 1937, Bruce and Jack Bannon opened a store in Indianapolis at 524 N. Illinois Street. Jack had married Bruce's sister, Violet

The cash value of the merchandise was about \$500, mostly surplus National Union tubes, Jefferson transformers, condensers, Tung-Sol pilot lights, Wirt resistors, Centralab Controls, and other items.

Jim Wetmore was sent down to get the place going.

One day in April or May of 1937, Bruce walked out front of the store as I was leaving and asked if I would like to go into the parts business. I agreed to try it for five years and see what it was like. The five years became a lifetime.

Jim and I had a great time working at R. D. Co. during that time and going around at night to the various shops to ring up any business we could.

A year or so after I came down to R.D. Co. in Indy, Bruce

decided to open a store in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Again, Jim was sent to get the new venture going. A business in this area had already been started by a Mr. Carey. The ground had already been broken.

Shortly before this, a Mr. Leonard Brightstone had been operating in Saginaw, Michigan. A Mr. Bob Edwards, from the Indianapolis store, who had been there before I joined the company, was sent to help Leonard.

By now, R.D. Co. had four stores.

With Jim gone, that left Jack and I to do the job in Indianapolis. It soon proved to be too much and one of our customers from Anderson Indiana was in the store by the name of Leibert Harrel. He had a partner, a Mr. Tash and the two of them had run a radio shop in Pendleton. They were not doing too well. Leibert had previously worked for Manley's Radio Supply in Anderson and had left them to open the shop in Pendleton. Jack said, "Andy, you know what we were talking about?". This was in 1939. Needless to say, in about 10 minutes, we had a new employee. Leibert needed no training as he had acquired it all back at Manley's.

He was a great person to work with and had the additional benefit of being an amateur, (W9MSM). There were now 4 Amateurs in Radio Distributing. Bruce realized that he was getting a bargain when he hired Amateurs. They were technically ready for the job.

Things went along very well at RDC but we had a lot of competition. I volunteered to go on the road. It was a thankless job but now we had a road representative in and around Indianapolis.

The first year was rough going but the next year was easier. I stayed on the road for two years. This was in 1941 and I came back into the store and worked at filling orders on the counter and mail orders. We were really busy.

I forgot to mention that when I came to RDC, I was to get the Amateur business going. It soon became about 20% of the operation. We also hired a young amateur, whose call I can't remember, named Charles Bivens.

During this time on the counter, I sold kits for a 2" oscilloscope. If a customer had some parts, I would supply the rest along with a schematic. The first ones were 2" and then we went to 3". We also sold other kits, anything to make a dollar.

Now comes 1942. There was a lot of pressure to help in the war effort. I left RDCo. and joined The Radell Corp. make crystals for military radio equipment.

During all this time, Radio Distributing Co. had acquired lines that required more space and they moved to 1019 N. Capitol Ave. This gave them about 6 times the space they had had at 524 N. Illinois.

Not too long after I left RDCo., Leibert left to join the DeJulio Brothers manufacturing transformers. While I was still at RDC, DeJulios had asked me to design and make transformers but I could not see it. Perhaps I could have helped them avoid bankruptcy.

After two years at Radell finishing crystals, designing equipment and using it, I came back to RDC. One evening, Jack had called up and asked when I was coming back. I had originally asked for a leave of absence of six months and here it was two years. Bill Acker needed help at South Bend. The Radell Corp. was no longer finishing crystals so I did not feel guilty about leaving them. Back in 1941, Radio Distributing of South Bend had outgrown their space at 736 S. Michigan St.. Bruce bought a building on the northeast corner of Monroe and Carrol Sts. which had about 10 times the footage at the old location.

The employees were Bill Acker, Florence Muckenthaler, Carl Trattles, Bill Davidson, Richard Kennedy, John Gerlach and George Hartenbower.

The Motorola business was booming. Everything went very well until the war effort began to be felt. Soon, only Bill and Florence were the only ones left. After a while, Ed Beiser joined them.

I showed up in the spring of 1944. We were a busy bunch. In 1945, after the war was over, Dave showed up.

The war surplus business was in full swing.

I was able to get some business that others couldn't crack, such as WSBT and WTRC. I remember Bill Acker saying, "how did you get this order" which happened to be for 3000 16 inch Audio Discs. I had thought nothing about it. Must have been too busy.

Before TV arrived, Motorola had developed a gasoline heater like the Stewart Warner. I guess it was a spinoff from the war. We tried to sell the things but they were not reliable. Bert Ferguson was the serviceman on them and he had a merry time. We constantly heard loud noises from out back at Bert's bench. It seems that the ignition was far from reliable and when it would occur after the system was full of vapor, there would be a loud bang and parts would fly around. This part of the business was terminated to the relief of all.

Dave and I were deep in surplus merchandise and still at it when Bruce came back. I think he thought Dave and I were crazy and said so. He also said, "I'm going to hold you and Dave responsible", but was grinning at the time since he loved to hear the cash register ring. So did I.

About the time Bruce returned from Indianapolis, the TV thing started to break. Bruce was very much against it. In fact, Motorola was pressuring to get started and the end result of this was to cancel our deal with Motorola. I thought it was a mistake but he may have been right.

After this, we did buy some sets from Hallicrafters and Air King and then the dam burst and we acquired Dumont. We did real well for a while, then the Dumont designers decided they had to have new models. These were a bust and it killed the roaring Dumont business. The new models may have been OK but we were never able to recoup. I hear that heads rolled at Dumont where we heard that a



set rolled off the line every 3 minutes.

We primarily sold Amphenol two stack antennas and two stack conicals. One day a man came in with an antenna that looked like a bedspring. He had tried to interest the Robertson Department Store but to no avail. The result of this call caused RDCo. to start selling the Finco 400 and it wasn't long before the other antennas started coming down and the Finco's to go up. Business became fantastic. We had at the counter, Marion Sullivan, Ronald Cox, Don Yates, Harold Morris, Harry Rogers, Bob Myers, Ray Grossman for a while, and myself. For those who wanted to be busy, now was the time. A typical sale included one 400 Finco, one TR-2 rotator, one Standard booster, 3 pieces pipe, and some misc. hardware, with a total value at the wholesale level of \$100.

I would love to know what the daily sales totals were, but I never did. Ignorance is bliss.

We used to get in several truckloads of Finco's a month. A carload of pipe---50 tons a month, Rotors by the hundreds. It was the most fantastic business you could hope for. I was hoping that Bruce would share some of these glorious profits but he never did.

The saddest part of it all was that he never spent it on himself. As far as I know, he only took two vacations. One that might be called a vacation, was in New York City in that famous tall building that was hit in a large window by a twin engine military plane. This was a real tragedy and the office opening was a bust.

By the spring of 1956, our store was crammed with merchandise and I received permission from Bruce to narrow the aisles so they could put in another row of shelving. They then moved to High Street which they accomplished over one weekend, leaving Friday and re-opening at the new location on Tuesday. Marion Sullivan, W9ZTI, had joined the rest of the HAMS, con-

sisting of W9VCV, W9SIQ, W9KFH, W9BRG and Bruce.

It was about this time that WSBT opened a UHF station which killed our antenna business. It went from a \$100 deal to a \$10 sale or none at all. Bruce did design a UHF base that was universal, along with a conical antenna with UHF and VHF complete with rotor and hardware that sold for \$100 list price that helped to ease the loss. While we were on Monroe and Carrol in 1952 or '53, Jim Wetmore came back and he was a great help. At this time, the counter people agreed that we were losing business to several competitors and decided one of us would leave the counter one day a week to canvass the territory. Don Yates explored the Industrial business, Steve Nyikos covered west and south, M. Sullivan went east and north. The Industrial began beating the domestic which marked a change in the business outlook. They gave up the Amateur business for lack of the proper personnel.

RDCo. became a distributor for Capitol Records. Bruce was always seeking ways to increase business and he decided to put up a really good antenna system. Over the middle of the store, Fred Herford and I and Barney Tennison erected an 88 foot tower along with an RD13 VDX antenna on a 3 in. magnesium pipe rising about 18 feet above the mast. Chicago really came booming in. I sold 2 of these towers to the Starlite theater on County Line and US20. Also one to the Chippewa theater on Chippewa Ave. close to US31 and one to the Robertson warehouse building.

The following winter, we had a terrible ice storm and the tower on our store began creaking and groaning at the roof supports where it was anchored. Some-

one came in and said “you’re gonna lose your antenna” to which I replied, ”it won’t, that’s magnesium”. Just about that time, there was a tremendous thump on the roof followed by water coming through the ceiling like Niagra Falls. Fred and George rushed to the roof with rags and a torch while everyone below hurried to move the TV sets with no damage but on the roof, there was 6 inches of ice and snow, all coming through a 4 inch hole. There must have been an inch of ice on the tower and antenna.

The new U.S. Post Office now occupies what had been our corner of Monroe Streets.

There was one salesman who called on us who really liked Bruce for two reasons. He liked to chew the rag and he knew Bruce had money which some of our competitors did not have. Bruce suggested to the salesman that it would be nice if all the tubes had a price on them instead of having to look at a price list. Bill Cobb, the rep for Raytheon tubes said it could be done if the order was big enough. Bruce said “would 100,000 be enough?” and Bill said yes. So Bruce came to me to make up an order for the 100,000 of the popular numbers. I did so including 6BG6B, 6BQ6, 6CD6G, 6SN7, 6AX4, 6X4, 6CB6, 6AU6, 1B3GT, 6AF4, 12AT7, and 12AU7 etc.. Bill said this was the biggest order he had ever received. There were 20 different types and it took perhaps a half hour to write it. This had to be in the late 1950’s so prices were still moderate.

The new location on High Street had been the home of the South Bend Bait Co.. There was also a million feet of bamboo rod and the Bait Company realized that they could not build a bamboo rod that could compete with the new fiberglass ones so they left.

The new store had two floors and a basement. The record division was moved upstairs giving us plenty of space on the first floor with 115 feet of display space

along the south wall. The "AMateur" store, led by Marion Sullivan was set up on the southeast corner. About this time, the Collins line came along. Marion did very well. In fact, he made the greatest sales to the most unlikely people. A complete Collins setup to George Jacobs, W9RZO, and another to Kenneth Norgren, W9PDJ. For new merchandise, we sold more than ever before. Marion then joined the industrial department and was replaced in the AMateur division by William Parker, W9EUJ, who proved to be a good salesman. We called him, Walt. We hired another young man, ("Buck"), who worked for me on the counter for several years and then joined the Industrial Dept. which grew by leaps and bounds. Harry Feingold worked on the counter with us. We lost him to a rare disease. Herman Lydeen came to us from Studebaker when they went out of business to run the shipping dept..

Bill Acker, who had helped me from the first days of radio servicing, was the first to retire. Bob Acton, W9JCF, was an amateur and a good salesman so we let him sell CB Equipment. Then when the "Business Band" equipment came out for the businessman that were trying to use the CB band, he really did well.

Matt Swizek, Bob Acton, Harold King, Bill Bentley, and Dick Hogar came to us from the Colfax Company which we acquired.

Down at Indianapolis, Radio Distributing moved from North Capitol to the 800 block of North Senate with Steve Nyikos as manager. The quarters were much larger with 2 or 3 floors.

I retired in the spring of 1973 just before RDCo. purchased a distributing firm in Tulsa Oklahoma. Steve was sent there to be the manager. I shouldn't forget the branch in Chicago on Randolph Street which was

operated by Harold Morris and David Mumby  
I'm not sure when Florence Muckenthaler retired.  
She never married and managed to outlive all three  
of her brothers. Shortly after I retired, Bruce sold  
his interest in the business for \$696,000 and I was  
sorry to see this happen as he was the reason I had  
joined the firm. The company then moved its South  
Bend div. to new quarters out by the airport on Ben-  
dix Drive. It was a long one story building some 400  
feet in length. I was glad to not be there as it would  
have meant a lot of walking.

*J. A. Mc Combs*

(Editorial follow-up)

As was the case with many of the Distributors in those  
days, Radio Distributing Co. shortened their name to  
"RADISCO" using the acronymic approach.

They became Connector specialists with lines such as  
Cannon, Bendix and others and concentrated more on  
the Industrial Marketplace. They eventually moved  
their Indianapolis location to West 16th St., just west of  
the old ballpark. They may have overspecialized or have  
become victims of the change of technology as regards  
connectors as they closed out the Indianapolis division  
undoubtedly giving way to the distributors who were more  
attuned to active components such as transistors, diodes  
and integrated circuits and the components associated  
with that technology. We'll attune ourselves to other  
parts sources in a future issue. Our thanks to McCombs  
for sharing his experiences.

# IHRS RADIO CONTEST 2/13/99

## Holiday Inn Southeast, Indianapolis

Dr. Ed Taylor, Photos by Pete Yanczer

The Winter Meet was a success and was blessed with good weather. There were a lot of interesting radios on hand for the contest as well as on the dealers' tables. There were 2 categories in the Equipment Contest and the winners are listed below:

### Portable Tube Category:

1st. Peter Yanczer, Zenith 5537

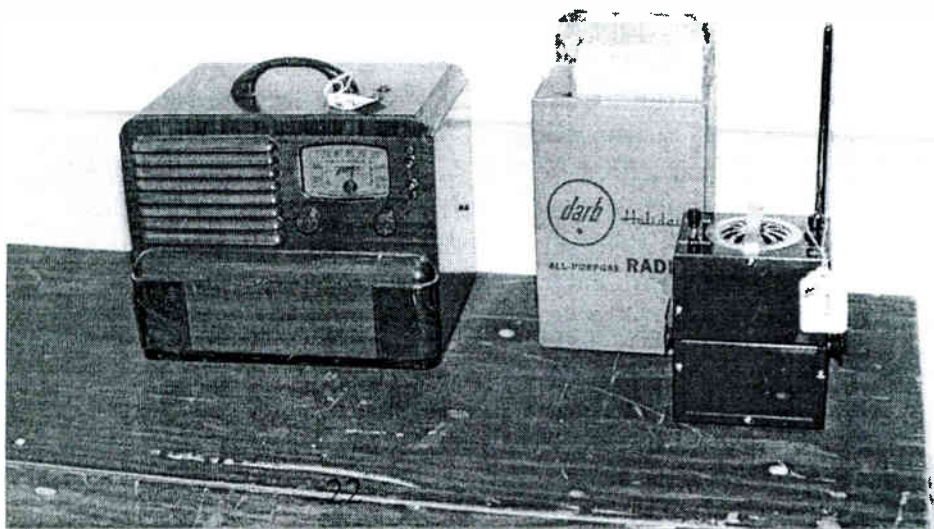
2nd. Bill Morris, Darb Holiday Bicycle Radio

### Transistor Radio Category

1st. Fred Prohl, Automatic Pocket Radio

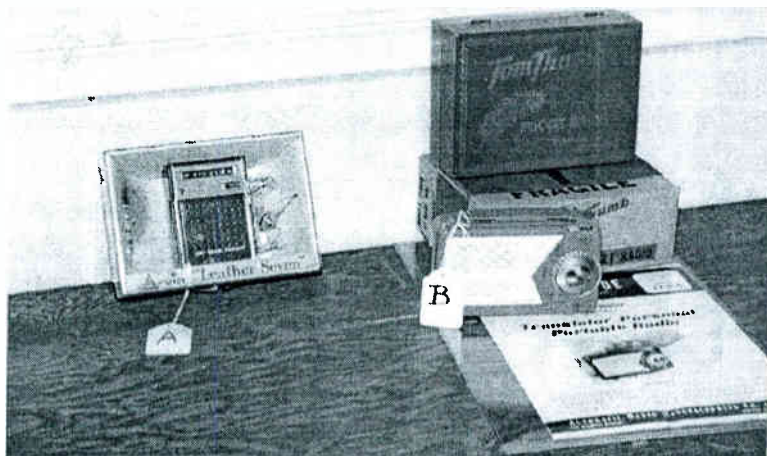
2nd. Peter Yanczer, Arvin Leather Seven

Submitted by contest chairman, Dr. Ed Taylor



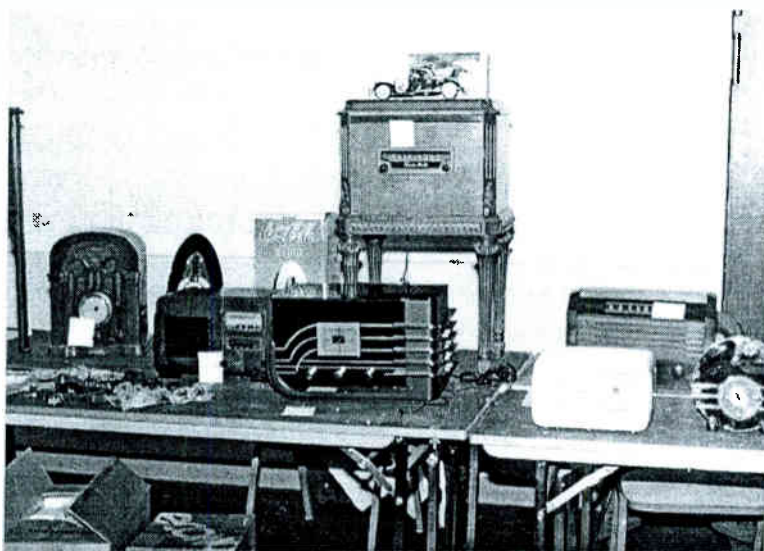
# IHRS RADIO CONTEST, (CONTINUED)

## My Favorite Transistor Radio



1st prize, Fred Prohl  
Automatic "Tom Thumb"

2nd prize, Pete Yanczer  
Arvin Leather Seven



The winners faced some stiff competition! Note the Blue Mirror crowd was well represented!

# HOW TO MAKE A SOLIDSTATE 35W4/35Z5 ETC.

by Ed Dupart

If you are in a pinch and don't have a good rectifier tube, and really want to try out that radio, here is a way to create one. Not exactly original, but it works. One word of caution! What usually destroys these AC/DC rectifiers are shorted filter and bypass capacitors. Make sure the radio does not have any shorts! It's a good idea to test these capacitors before you even plug in the radio.

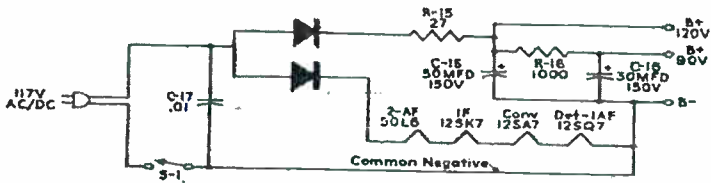
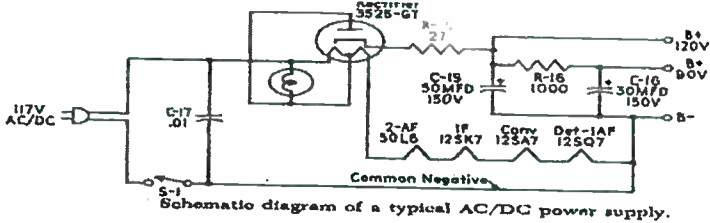
We will replace the 35 volt .15 amp rectifier tube with two solidstate diodes. I like to use the 1N4005 to 1N4007 diodes or better. These 1N400X series diodes are rated at 1 amp and have a much higher voltage rating than the plates of the tubes we are replacing, and the "filament" diode can handle the 150 ma. (.15 amp) just fine. The diode that goes from the plate to cathode simply changes the AC to a pulsating DC and the filter capacitor changes the pulsating DC to a purer DC voltage. The second diode replaces the filament and acts as a dropping resistor. The advantage of this system is that there is no need for a bulky, hot running dropping resistor. The diode runs very cool. No heat sinks are needed. What is happening is that you are placing DC voltage to the filaments. One half of the AC cycle is gone and there is no voltage conducted for that lost half cycle. I won't go into the math of how all this works, but the net effect is that about 35 volts is lost and that is exactly what we want. Here is another caution!!! Whatever you do, DO NOT put a filter capacitor in the FILAMENT circuit. That will get rid of the pulsating voltage and burn out a tube filament or two. An advantage of the octal based tubes is that you can place the diodes in the base of an octal tube after the glass and wires have been removed from the Bakelite base.

Typically, this procedure should cost less than a dollar and may be used as a permanent "cure".

ED DUPART

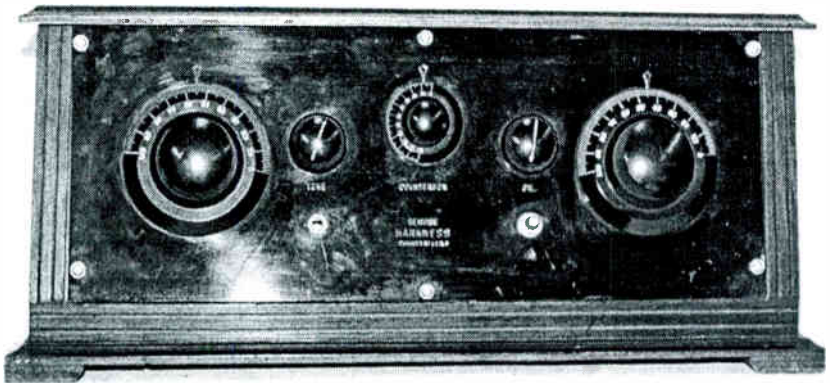
Editor's note. In the next issue, Ed will provide a replacement/solution for those hard to obtain resistance line cords.





The above schematic represents the circuit changes referred to in Ed Dupart's article on page 24.

BELOW: George Hauske's Harkness 3T regenerative reflex set which has 4 pages of description and construction details as shown in the Fall, 1925 issue of Citizen's Radio Call Book" George comments that it uses a somewhat rare form of regeneration by means of a bridge circuit and he wonders why this had not been used in other sets.



# RADIOADS

*These ads are free to IHRS members. Please limit them to 100 words or less. Unless we are advised otherwise, we will run ads for two issues. The exception would be where services etc. are being listed. Please send your ads to the editor.*

**WANTED:** Need the escutcheon and the two knobs for a Crosley Table model 148 Cathedral style. Used parts OK if in good condition.

A. W. Thomas, 1944 Clark Rd. , Speedway, IN, 46224, (317) 244-4932.

**WANTED:** Zenith Royal 500H-1 with chassis 8LT40Z1., not the 8HT40Z2.

Eldon A. Horton, 8187 La Habra Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46236. (317)823-6374.

E.mail: radio@inetdirect.net

**WANTED:** Indiana made radios of the 1920s and 1930s. Wilson, Fairbanks-Morse, Skylark, and Cardinola radios and any information on these units. Good or dud Gold or Blue 01As. Michael Feldt, 12035 Somerset Way East, Carmel, IN 46033. Phone: (317) 844-0635, e-mail: [feldtm@iquest.net](mailto:feldtm@iquest.net).

**WANTED:** Air-Way fil. rheostats and audio transformers for type G.

Speaker-output transformer Crosley model 59. **FOR SALE:** U.S. government text, "Radio Instruments and Measurements", (1937);

Battery Radios, Workrite three tube, (99s); Gilfillan 5 tube, (01As).

George B. Clemans, 851 West Wooster St., Bowling Green, Ohio, 43402.

Phone: (419) 352-7198, e-mail: [clemans@bgnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:clemans@bgnet.bgsu.edu)

**WANTED:** WWII military television; Army/Navy Glide Bomb TV receiver CRV-46, BC1213, Cameras, trans., tuning meter, ATK/ATJ technical manual, Maurice Schechter, 590 Willis Ave., Williston Park, NY11596, phone/fax (516)-294-4416

**FOR SALE:** Friendly Exchange: The following sets play well and have good tubes:

1. AMBRIOLA 6 tube battery 2 dial, inlay cabinet, pg. 23, Bunis 3rd. edition \$225.
2. Firestone 4-C-16 5 tube AC-DC/Battery tan marble plastic \$35
3. GE T-145 AM transistor, large oval speaker, good tone quality \$25
4. Hallicrafters SX-11 with matching speaker, has been re-capped and has eye. \$225
5. Zenith Model 33 6 tube AC set, 1928 table model \$225
6. Colonial first model made in Brooklyn before move to Buffalo, beautiful light oak cabinet, 6 good UX199s, panel meter for pick-up or will be at IHRS/AWA meet in Indy, June 4th \$250
7. Sparton table model 6-15. One of the first A.C. sets built in a battery model cabinet during the change-over. Uses Sparton C-401 tubes. \$195
8. 7 tube Zenith AM-FM wood table model K-731, has been restored, is a 1963 set. \$20

Help! I'm out of shelf space. Ross Smith (see next page for more info)

## RADIO-ADS, CONTINUED

**FREE FOR PICKUP:** 14 transfer files of Sam's Photofacts from the 200s up to the 1700s. Some not in sequence and not complete.

**CALL:** Ross Smith, 1133 Strong, Elkhart, IN 46514 (219) 295-7770

**FOR SALE:** Tube Books: 1) "Illustrated History of Philips Radio Valves to 1935" \$15.00 including air mail postage. 2) "History of G.E.C. and the Marconi-Osram Valve, \$25.00 as above via air. 3) Repro colour brochure on the Classic Australian Bakelite Radio of the mid thirties, The A.W.A "Radiolette" \$12.00 including Air Mail postage.  
Fin Stewart, "COCKERDALE", 380 Bulga Rd. , Wingham N.S.W. 2429, Australia

**FOR SALE:** GE, GD500 midget Bakelite radio; beautiful Miranda Mirandella FF Japanese 3" reel-reel tape recorder, original box; Aquatron VX33 space helmet AM-FM 8 track, white; GE tube caddy, nice **FOR SALE: WANTED:** Motorola TVs with 7 or 8 inch screens, 40s.  
Charles Harper, 2000 Jackstown Rd., Paris, KY 40361 (606) 484-9393

**FOR SALE:** Photocopies: Hallicrafters S-22, Radiola III, other radio, tube, T.E. manuals. Some novelty radios.  
Send LSASE: Herman Gross, 1705 Gordon Dr. Kokomo, IN 46902. E-mail: w9itt@juno.com

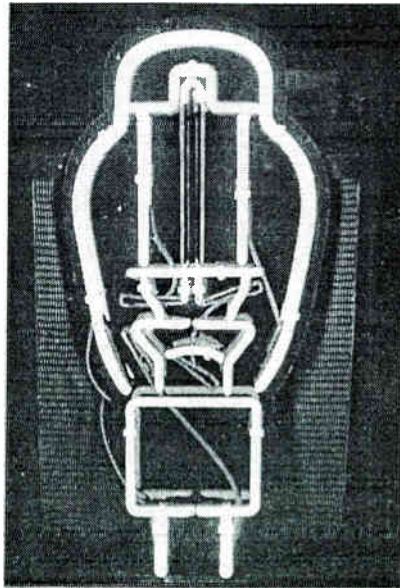
**FOR SALE:** Hallicrafters, nice working SX-42 with R-42 speaker, you must pick-up. \$225  
Good 401 tubes, 3 Silvertone, 1 Cardon and 2 un-named \$20.00 each plus shipping  
George Hausske, 1922 E. Indiana St., Wheaton, IL, 60187-5932

**FOR SALE:** Knight KG2100 Lab. Oscilloscope with triggered sweep, 5 inch screen, Eico model 239 Solidstate VOM, \$20., B&K model 707 tube tester, \$25, Paco model C-20 Resistor-Capacitor Ratio Bridge/Tester, \$25. Philco model 7050 tube tester, \$20, Eico model 232 VOM, \$20. Eico model 1120 Capacitor substitution box, \$10., Heathkit model IT-22 capacitor checker, \$15., Mercury model 501 component Substituter, \$25., Also have Variac-Power Supply and various vacuum tubes, call for details. Bernard Loveman, 1047 Graham Rd. , Indianapolis, IN, 46219-3127 Tel. # (317) 356-8619.

**FOR SALE:** Radio Schematics---\$2.50. Rider's radio &TV manuals. Xerox copies of service manuals:Zenith, 942 pages-\$65,

Philco, 300 pgs., \$30., Crosley, 322 pgs.--\$30., Atwater Kent, 463 pages., \$35, Riders Radio Index, 1 through 23,\$20.. Also, Philco cabinets, parts, finials for 20, 70, and 90 etc. Call ! Vintage TV UHF converters and signal boosters, Books, SASE for list. All plus shipping. Dick Oliver, 28604 Schwalm Drive, Elkhart, IN 46517. Phone (219) 522-4516.

**FOR SALE:** Beautiful three foot high neon and argon RADIO TUBE sign mounted on plexiglas. Created by Steve Renner of Neon Amenities. (Our copy of the picture doesn't do this justice as we are not able to process color). The sign, complete with high voltage transformer is for sale. \$225 or will swap for old HI-FI equipment. This was on display at the Greenfield/Fall meet. Other signs available such as Zenith, RCA, Philco, or, custom types to order. The first "tube" sign is now on display at the IHRS Antique Radio Museum at Ligonier. Steve Renner, 4060 S. County Rd. 550 W., Yorktown, IN 46902. Phone(765) 759-9133. (Note new A/C).



***Remember, Be there at the 28th annual  
IHRS/AWA meet on June 3rd, 4th and 5th!***